

NEWS

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Australian killed in Dili

CANBERRA — The Bendigo-born brother of the Liberal Party federal president Shane Stone was stabbed to death in East Timor in what police described yesterday as a crime of passion.

Terry Stone, 44, was stabbed in the back in Dili on Monday night by his East Timorese fiancée's former husband and brother.

He died later in hospital.

In an unusual coincidence, Terry Stone's death is the second stabbing of a Bendigo-born person in East Timor this year.

Earlier this year, Kirsty

Bendigo-born man stabbed

Sword, the Bendigo-raised wife of East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao, was robbed and stabbed on a beach.

She recovered from her injuries.

Both men in the latest stabbing fled the scene but were arrested by United Nat-

ions civilian police and subsequently confessed, police said.

"The bottom line is my brother was murdered and butchered by two fellows who stabbed him in the back," Shane Stone said yesterday.

Mr Stone said his brother was 'an ordinary bloke' determined to make a new life with a new wife in the fledgling nation of East Timor.

He said Terry Stone worked for a waste management company in Dili and had enjoyed a long relationship with Berta Soares, 30, whom he planned to marry.

"One could be forgiven for thinking this was some sleazy tryst up there which had gone all sour," said Mr Stone, the former chief minister of the Northern Territory.

"In fact, this was a regular

relationship of a man over a long period of time courting an East Timorese girl who he was going to marry.

"He had brought her to Australia and introduced Berta to his family.

"They were looking forward to setting up their life together.

"He had fallen in love with this local lady whom he was determined to marry and have a family with.

"I have never seen him so happy or so content. He struggled all his life and everything was going right for him."

United Nations civilian police in Dili said Mr Stone died in Dili hospital from injuries received about 8 pm on Monday night when a knife was plunged into his back.

"This was a crime of passion," a spokesman for the United Nations civilian police in Dili said.

"Witnesses state that the suspects followed the victim and the East Timorese female, had a brief conversation with them, then stabbed the victim in the back," a police spokesman said.